

---

JOURNAL OF THE  
**BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY**

---

Volume 17

Number 3



2006

## 1901-S Barber Quarter



The 1901-S Barber Quarter is the key date of the set  
and the rarest 20th Century regular issue minor U.S. coin.

See pages 10-19

*Photo courtesy of <http://www.BarberCoins.org>*

# Coins and currency are history you can hold. Be a part of their future.

## David Lawrence combines traditional value...

- **Quality:** At DLRC, we only sell coins and currency graded by the accepted industry grading houses. In addition to being quite fussy about the material we offer for sale on our Web site, we use our unique color/star-rating system to advise you on a coin's degree of toning and eye appeal.
- **Service:** We have four professional (non-commissioned) numismatists available to help you with all of your collecting questions. Our knowledgeable and friendly support staff is there to help with all other questions, assuring you the highest quality personal service in the industry.
- **Selection:** DLRC offers over 6,000 certified coins, currency and books for sale at all times.

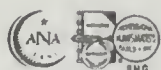
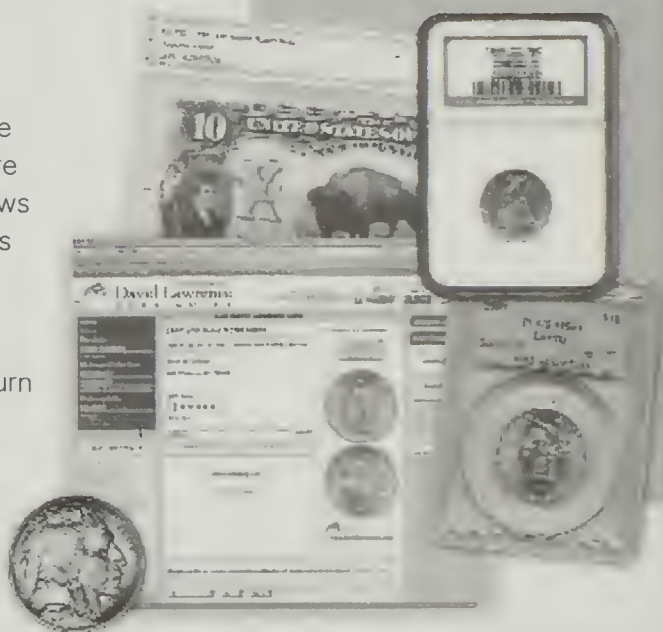
## ...with the most progressive tools in modern trading.

- **Continuously Updated Web site:** New items are added daily with large, full-color images. Easy, secure online ordering. Our *myDavidLawrence* feature allows you to keep track of orders, want lists, consignments and auction bids. Best of all, it's easy to use.
- **Weekly Internet-only auctions:** These exclusive auctions provide easy, interactive bidding with full return privileges. Most items are offered without reserve.
- **Online want listing:** Don't miss that key date you've been hunting for years! With our want list service, you are automatically notified by e-mail when a match is added to inventory.

Here's what satisfied  
customers are saying  
about DLRC

"Finally, after looking at dozens of Web sites, I found yours, which is **exactly how a Web site for coins and currency should be!**"

"Thanks for all of your outstanding help. Your coins and your Web site are amazing! **It really sets you apart from your competition.**"



John Feigenbaum &  
Win Callender, members.

**www.davidlawrence.com**  
**800.776.0560**  
email: [info@davidlawrence.com](mailto:info@davidlawrence.com)



**David Lawrence**  
RARE COINS

Advancing the Art of Collecting

---

JOURNAL OF THE  
BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY

Founded in 1989 by Steve Epstein  
ANA Club Member C-146266

## OFFICERS

Philip Carrigan.....*President*  
Eileen Ribar.....*Editor, BCCS Journal,*  
*Secretary/Treasurer*  
Steve Szczerbiak.....*Variety Coordinator*  
Steve Hustad.....*Contributing Editor*  
John Dembinski.....*Contributing Editor*

---

## ADDRESSES

John Frost, Webmaster: <http://www.BarberCoins.org>

For articles, submitting coins to be photographed, information for Barber Bits, Letters to the Editor, advertisements, layouts, etc.: Eileen Ribar, 2053 Edith Pl., Merrick, NY 11566; Tel. 516-379-4681; E-mail: [emcrib@optonline.net](mailto:emcrib@optonline.net)

For variety information, questions and comments: Steve Szczerbiak, new mailing address pending; E-mail: [sscerbiak@aol.com](mailto:sscerbiak@aol.com)

For membership dues (\$15 per year; Canadian residents \$20), information about the BCCS and back issues of the BCCS Journal (\$3.00 each): Eileen Ribar, 2053 Edith Pl., Merrick, NY 11566; Tel. 516-379-4681; E-mail: [emcrib@optonline.net](mailto:emcrib@optonline.net)

For BCCS issues in general: Philip Carrigan, 1944 Ash St., Waukegan, IL 60087; Tel. 847-625-0381; Fax to home phone (must call first); E-mail: [philrph1892@cs.com](mailto:philrph1892@cs.com)

---

## CONTENTS

Page 4.....BCCS President's Message  
Page 6.....BCCS Editor's Message  
Page 7....."Barbers as Bullion" by Rich Dula  
Page 9.....Barber Bits  
Page 10...."Barber Quarter Census and Rarity Survey Results" by John Frost  
Page 21...." '15 Most Wanted' List: Unexpected Capture" by Steve Merrill





## BCCS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the Barber Society end-of Summer issue for 2006.

The Denver ANA convention is history by about three weeks. If you read the same papers I do, attendance reached or exceeded expectations, people there (dealers and collectors) were happy and the coin (and currency) market was healthy to robust.

I had an interesting conversation with a dealer which began with my asking "How is business?" The answer was I'm seeing the same people I see at many shows, floor traffic is not heavy, and the topper, how many local people will actually walk into this facility. This person finished by suggesting if all ANA conventions were held in the east, preferably in Baltimore, he would be happy! For my eastern brothers, you understand, for the rest of those reading this remark, I should apologize for the quoting of such geographical bias.

The dealer quoted above provides an interesting message or lesson. (By way of background, his company is collector oriented, they solicit want lists and they don't trumpet selling \$1,000,000 coins.) The message I see relates to finding responsive dealers at any show. Find someone with inventory in their cases you are interested in. Ask to see something and engage in some conversation. You can soon determine if this dealer is interested in a new face with your collecting interest.

Returning to the ANA convention, it was all there! One of the many treats was viewing the ten (10) 1933 St Gaudens \$20 gold coins. Displayed in a sandwich of Lucite, vertically oriented, one could observe both obverse and reverse. I noted the color of these pieces was a uniform light straw yellow and different than other prior dates.

The well-established ANA annual BCCS meeting was a treat. While attendance was sparse, Barber experience and interest filled the room. John Frost presented the Barber Quarter survey highlights which are provided in this issue in detail. Discussion on these data was lively and insightful. I thank John for his energy and organization in pulling these results together. (Please wait a month or so and ask John about the next survey.) There was a bit of show & tell including one member presenting an 1892 half dollar with a micro-O mintmark and in the unheard of condition of Very Fine! Note: just today, I learned in the mail that Stack's will offer this variety in Choice BU (more expensive but also more examples than those in VF).

(continued on page 19)



## BCCS EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Looking over this issue of the *Journal*, I realize that it revolves very nicely around Barber Quarters.

The long-awaited Barber Quarter census/survey is completed. John Frost has done a terrific presentation of the results and findings. After reading John's report, my husband commented that now he knows where all the quarters are. He was able to contribute to the census too. Thanks mainly to eBay and the local coin shop, his Barber Quarter collection in F-XF (mostly VF) now needs only nine coins to be complete.

John informed me that the Barber Half Dollar census/rarity survey should be ready for inclusion with the upcoming December *Journal*.

Also in this issue, Rich Dula helps explain another reason for the shortage of available Barber quarters in his article, "Barbers as Bullion," which you will find on the next page. The Barber Quarter was not the only series melted down for its silver content in the last century, and I find it somewhat regrettable that parts of our history have been eradicated in such a manner.

This morning I was saddened to read in the Sept. 5, 2006 issue of *Numismatic News* (page 4) that freelance writer Paul M. Green died of an apparent heart attack August 20th at age 57. Paul's Barber coinage related articles are frequently reprinted in our *Journal*. I still have here about two dozen of his articles that he'd done in the last three years for *Numismatic News* and will print them in future *Journals* as space allows.

### THE JOURNAL NEEDS YOUR ARTICLES!

Remember your article submission(s) automatically enters you in the BCCS Literary Contest. The article receiving the most member votes will win a 1st place prize of \$50. Second place prize will be \$25 and third place will be a free one year BCCS membership. So, make sure your membership is up to date and get your article to Eileen at the post office or e-mail address on page 3.

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS Dec. 1st**



# Barbers as Bullion

By Rich Dula

It may come as a surprise to many newer/younger collectors that at one time large percentages of the Barber dimes, quarters, and half dollars were priced/valued according to their silver content. While affecting mainly the circulated grades of VG and below, this is precisely the grade range that most of the silver Barbers survived in.

Looking at old *Red Book* valuations, I used the 1979 *Red Book* as an example of valuations before the great silver price increase of the early 1980's as well as the 1981 and 1985 *Red Books* to illustrate prices during this period of high silver bullion prices.

An (\*) in the charts below means valued according to silver bullion price. The 1981 valuations were based on \$30/oz. of silver and the 1985 valuations were based on \$15/oz. of silver. In fact, the price of silver surpassed \$50/oz. in January 1981 making even the then high valuations in the *Red Book* obsolete. Common date refers to those coins with the lowest valuations in a given grade.

## COMMON DATE BARBER DIMES

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>GOOD</u>	<u>VG</u>	<u>FINE</u>	<u>VF</u>
1979	\$1.00	\$1.50	\$2.50	\$6.50
1981	\$3.00*	\$3.75*	\$5.00	\$7.50
1985	\$1.50*	\$1.75*	\$3.00	\$6.00
2006	\$3.00	\$4.00	\$5.00	\$8.00

## COMMON DATE BARBER DIMES

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>GOOD</u>	<u>VG</u>	<u>FINE</u>	<u>VF</u>
1979	\$2.00	\$4.00	\$8.00	\$20.00
1981	\$7.00*	\$7.50*	\$9.00	\$20.00
1985	\$3.50*	\$4.00*	\$9.00	\$16.00
2006	\$6.00	\$8.00	\$20.00	\$35.00

## COMMON DATE BARBER QUARTERS

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>GOOD</u>	<u>VG</u>	<u>FINE</u>	<u>VF</u>
1979	\$3.75	\$5.50	\$11.00	\$40.00
1981	\$12.00*	\$14.00*	\$18.00	\$40.00
1985	\$7.00*	\$8.00*	\$20.00	\$40.00
2006	\$13.00	\$15.00	\$35.00	\$85.00

---

BARBER DIMES

In 1981, 44 out of 74 dates/mintmarks or 59.5% in Good were valued at bullion prices.

41 dates/mintmarks or 55% of the series in Very Good were valued at bullion prices. Note: I did not include the 1894-S Dime in the total count because of its extreme rarity.

In 1985, 24 out of 74 dates/mintmarks were valued at bullion prices for both the grades of Good and Very Good for a total of 32% of the series in each grade.

BARBER QUARTERS

In 1981, 60 out of 74 dates/mintmarks, or 81%, in the grade of Good had bullion valuation.

In 1981, in the grade of Very Good, 54 dates, or 73% of the series, had bullion valuation.

In 1985, 54 out of 74 dates/mintmarks, or 73%, in the grade of Good had bullion valuation.

In 1985, in the grade of Very Good, 52 dates, or 70% of the series, had bullion valuation.

BARBER HALF DOLLARS

In 1981, 52 out of 73 dates/mintmarks, or 71%, in the grade of Good had bullion valuation.

In 1981, in the grade of Very Good, 50 dates, or 68.5% of the series, had bullion valuation.

In 1985, 33 out of 73 dates/mintmarks, or 45% of the series, in the grade of Good had bullion valuation.

In 1985, in the grade of Very Good, 24 dates, or 33% of the series, had bullion valuation.

In the lists below are the dates/mintmarks that were felt to deserve a valuation greater than their bullion value in Good condition. It must be noted that some of these dates/mintmarks had very small valuations over bullion value (even in VG condition), so I would imagine when silver bullion approached \$50/oz., they too were sent to the melting pot. In short, any date/mintmark not listed below was considered to be worth only its silver content and prime candidates to be turned into silver bars.

BARBER DIMES

1892-O	1894	1896-O	1898-S	1902-S
1892-S	1894-O	1896-S	1899-O	1903-S
1893/2	1895	1897	1899-S	1904-S
1893	1895-O	1897-O	1900-O	1909-D
1893-O	1895-S	1897-S	1900-S	1909-S

1893-S	1896	1898-O	1901-S	1913-S
--------	------	--------	--------	--------

BARBER QUARTERS

1892-O	1896-S	1901-O	1913-S
1892-S	1897-O	1901-S	1914-S
1893-S	1897-S	1909-O	
1896-O	1899-S	1913	

BARBER HALF DOLLARS

1892	1893-O	1895-O	1897-O	1901-S
1892-O	1893-S	1895-S	1897-S	1904-S
1892-S	1894	1896-O	1898-O	1913
1893	1894-O	1896-S	1899-S	1914 & 1915

In the grades of Good and Very Good, values tripled from what they had been before the increase in silver prices. This resulted in many Barbers being sold and melted for their bullion value. No one will ever know what quantities of the various dates/mintmarks were melted down, but I know from personal experience that not only the common dates were sold for their bullion value. During the early 1980’s, I acquired a 1901-S quarter in G/AG condition for \$150.00 from a local dealer. He later told me that he had purchased it in a lot of silver coins for their bullion value. He also mentioned that he would check all 1896, 1901, and 1913 quarters if he had time before sending them off to the smelters. At this time in the early 1980’s, the 1901-S quarter was the only silver Barber coin that I owned, as I had sold the few that I had for the high bullion prices. Ironically, today it is the only coin I am missing in my Barber quarter set, as I sold this coin shortly after purchase, not having interest in Barbers at that time.

It has taken almost 25 years for the valuations in the grades of Good and Very Good to reach their 1981 levels. If one looks at the purchasing power of the dollar in 1981 compared to today, the silver bullion values and prices being paid for coins that were not appreciated by collectors at that time were simply fantastic. The fact that I could buy a decent 1901-S quarter for \$150.00 should serve as a case in point on purchasing power.

Looking at the price charts, the price spread between the grades of Very Good and Fine is not all that good. I believe that as silver prices approached \$50/oz., Barber coins in Fine condition were also sold for their bullion value and melted. I don’t recall seeing all that many Barbers in Fine condition before the increase in silver prices, but melting could very well have been another cause for their present scarcity today.



---

One thing that still puzzles me is the fact that a larger percentage of the Barber quarter series was valued at silver bullion prices compared to the dimes and half dollars. Why this was so, I really don't know. Perhaps the dimes and half dollars were simply more popular and widely collected at the time. At any rate, it would seem that Barber quarters had a greater opportunity for bullion sales and subsequent melting, and for a longer period of time. As late as 1985, 70% of Barber quarters were still being valued according to their bullion content compared to 32% of Barber dimes and 33% of Barber half dollars in Very Good condition.

From personal experience, the Barber quarter series was the most difficult to collect in Very Good condition compared to the dimes and half dollars. As I began upgrading my quarter collection to Fine and Very Fine grades, I soon found that many dates/mintmarks were easier to locate in Very Fine condition than Fine condition. I believe that many in Fine condition were simply melted down for their bullion value. Coins in Very Fine condition had a better chance of surviving the era of high bullion values as their collector value at the time was significantly higher than their bullion value.

At any rate, I believe we are still trying to sort out which Barber coins are in fact scarcer than their original mintages would have us believe. In addition to regular circulation/losses for the Barber series, which I believe was extensive for this particular series of coins, the melting of these coins further reduced the available surviving examples available to us today.



## BARBER BITS

*Here are several more 2004 End-of Year Member Survey responses to the question "What are your three favorite Barbers?"*

Bill Armor: The Barber Dime was my first love. I was always looking for an 1894-S when I was a kid. Of course I never found one. The 1901-S was the only quarter, along with the 1896-S, I had to purchase to complete my quarter collection.

Garry Hovis -

1893-S 10c - my example has a triple-S mintmark that was unattributed when purchased

1909-D 10c - last one located in AU condition

1903-S 10c - 1st "key" purchased

(continued on page 22)

---

# Barber Quarter Census and Rarity Survey Results

By **John Frost**

During the beginning of 2006, the BCCS conducted a Census and Rarity Survey of Barber Quarters. With the last survey being over a decade ago, the primary purpose was to update our knowledge of the series as to both the populations of coins already in collectors' hands, and also the opinions of collectors as to the relative scarcity of the different dates in a wide range of grades. This is the first of four planned surveys to be conducted over the next couple of years.

This project consisted of two parts:

- **A Census** for collectors to report their holdings for each date and grade level
- **A Rarity Survey** for collectors to express their opinions as to the relative scarcity of the different dates in the series in various grades.

There was a very strong response to the survey, with 120 collectors reporting over 12,000 coins! With the survey being open to the general public, 30 guests participated via the BCCS website, a few of which later joined the Society, in addition to 90 BCCS members.

While the Census data provides very interesting and useful information, care should be taken when making use of this information. There are a number of important caveats that must be considered. These were so well described by friend Stephen Crain in the LSCC's *Gobrecht Journal* (Vol. 32, #95, Liberty Seated Half Dime Survey Results), that instead of me writing something different (but not articulated as well), I will rather paraphrase parts of his key points, with his kind permission that is greatly appreciated.

**Limited sampling:** Many collectors possess Barber Quarters as type coins, and others have them as part of a year set (e.g., 1899). Lots more are in the hands of people who inherited them from grandparents and the like. Although this survey was open to all collectors (not just BCCS members), only those guests who attended a BCCS meeting at a coin show, discovered our web site, or who read about the survey in *Coin World* or by word of mouth, participated in the survey (or have

---

even heard of BCCS). Therefore, the majority of holders of Barber Quarters did not participate in the survey, and all of those coins are not represented here.

**On or off the market:** One assumption that is often made by readers is that a coin Census represents a cross section of the coins generally available in the marketplace. This, of course, is not true, as the reported coins are those that are already in collections and thus off the market. For the keys and semi-keys, which perhaps were acquired after a long search, they are often impounded in collections and off the market for a very long time.

**One collector, one coin:** Most collectors simply don't buy coins in proportion to those on the market. Many people are putting together a set, in which case they will often buy only one specimen of each date and mint. However, if the collector believes certain dates are scarce and undervalued, he or she may purchase additional examples as an investment, or for later trades with other collectors. This can result in a collector possessing more examples of the scarcer dates than the common ones. Even if this doesn't happen, the rare dates will appear to be equally available as common dates.

**Upgrading:** Many collectors strive for coins in a certain grade range. However, they may have to settle for a different (usually lower) grade of the scarcer dates until they find one in the desired grade, often after a long search. Once upgraded, many collectors will keep the duplicates of the keys and semi-keys for future trades. For the common readily-available dates, most collectors will simply wait to purchase pieces in the desired grade. Again, this would tend to skew the census in favor of the scarcer dates.

**Hoarding:** Some collectors have an interest in certain dates. Others may have affinity for coins produced at certain mints. However, most hoarding seems to occur with issues that are considered scarce and undervalued.

Therefore, when trying to interpret the Census, one must bear the previous points in mind. It is for these reasons that we also conducted the Rarity Survey as a complement to the Census.

## Census Results

12,711 coins were reported by 120 participants. 19 people reported complete sets, and three of those people had two complete sets. 21 other people had complete sets minus only one or more of the "Big 3" (1896-S, 1901-S, 1913-S), and two of those people nearly had two complete sets.



## Barber Quarter Census – 2006

Date	AG	G	VG	F	VF	XF	AU	MS	PF	Total	Rank
1892	35	79	34	16	18	18	32	23	1	256	69
1892-O	8	31	22	13	14	13	23	9		133	15
1892-S	23	54	8	14	12	11	11	8		141	28
S/S	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	2		6	---
1893	8	54	31	17	19	12	11	17	3	172	43
1893-O	11	44	14	14	13	16	13	12		137	24
1893-S	17	43	10	14	14	11	12	7		128	12
1894	18	63	18	10	13	18	7	8	4	159	40
1894-O	7	54	13	11	18	13	7	7		130	14
1894-S	7	54	14	13	18	6	16	8		136	22
1895	20	74	16	18	19	17	4	13	1	182	48
1895-O	17	54	19	19	14	12	11	5		151	33
1895-S	19	48	21	11	18	9	8	8		142	30
S/S	0	2	2	1	3	3	0	3		14	---
1896	16	65	25	12	18	15	12	6	3	172	43
1896-O	8	34	25	15	15	5	8	4		114	5
1896-S	8	29	16	5	9	9	4	3		83	3
1897	30	81	28	18	28	14	12	3	3	217	61
1897-O	29	61	23	11	16	5	6	6		157	38
1897-S	31	79	20	14	14	10	10	5		183	50
center mm	5	15	1	1	0	0	3	1		26	---
1898	48	162	36	18	20	23	11	10	6	334	73
1898-O	8	45	18	14	13	19	9	7		133	15
1898-S	11	51	12	16	12	18	12	6		138	25
1899	45	162	29	18	25	23	8	12	2	324	72
1899-O	9	55	29	12	12	17	7	4		145	31
1899-S	15	54	9	12	10	13	8	8		129	13
1900	33	71	24	21	23	19	11	6	2	210	60
1900-O	10	23	22	17	20	11	10	8		121	8
1900-S	8	54	13	13	20	18	22	7		155	36
1901	32	49	30	20	28	13	12	8	2	194	53
1901-O	32	28	17	14	19	12	7	4		133	15
1901-S	9	14	6	3	3	2	0	5		42	1
1902	42	43	27	27	33	22	11	10	3	218	62
1902-O	15	22	18	20	24	20	11	4		134	18
1902-S	21	22	15	17	19	12	9	5		120	7
1903	46	51	20	26	27	12	8	4	2	196	55
1903-O	19	26	23	21	17	14	9	5		134	18
1903-S	13	25	16	19	19	6	5	8		111	4
1904	32	38	26	25	26	15	14	9	1	186	51
1904-O	21	43	22	17	18	17	9	6		153	34

Date	AG	G	VG	F	VF	XF	AU	MS	PF	Total	Rank
1905	27	30	15	23	23	12	9	11	5	155	36
1905-O	18	41	19	19	15	8	9	6		135	21
1905-S	16	30	25	20	18	14	7	6		136	22
1906	20	45	18	18	17	9	7	8	3	145	31
1906-D	19	37	11	24	19	9	13	8		140	27
1906-O	14	25	20	16	13	9	5	14		116	6
1907	47	59	22	20	25	12	8	8	1	202	56
1907-D	12	41	18	19	20	9	10	5		134	18
1907-O	24	64	12	25	22	10	10	7		174	45
1907-S	11	30	22	15	18	10	8	7		121	8
1908	30	37	24	18	15	8	11	12	2	157	38
1908-D	40	89	43	19	21	19	10	9		250	68
1908-O	28	73	32	30	25	15	15	7		225	64
1908-S	10	20	42	17	17	8	4	8		126	11
1909	46	85	44	35	28	17	13	9	2	279	70
1909-D	36	84	37	24	27	13	12	9		242	67
1909-O	33	89	42	33	11	8	10	8		234	66
1909-S	8	36	23	28	22	7	11	3		138	25
1910	18	57	24	17	22	7	5	9	3	162	41
1910-D	17	24	32	18	23	11	11	5		141	28
1911	39	63	31	22	17	13	11	5	2	203	57
1911-D	15	39	46	20	30	10	12	8		180	47
1911-S	20	62	34	18	30	7	11	6		188	52
1912	29	61	39	30	19	13	8	8	1	208	59
1912-S	7	36	20	22	20	6	6	6		123	10
1913	16	56	39	16	23	8	8	8	2	176	46
1913-D	16	41	29	16	26	4	11	10		153	34
1913-S	8	24	24	8	3	2	3	5		77	2
1914	48	112	67	28	31	14	9	11	3	323	71
1914-D	21	72	37	19	20	14	13	8		204	58
1914-S	16	51	38	20	22	5	7	5		164	42
1915	15	79	49	20	25	20	5	6	4	223	63
1915-D	24	87	40	20	22	21	12	5		231	65
1915-S	20	47	48	23	24	13	11	8		194	53
1916	8	57	46	24	15	14	9	9		182	48
1916-D	52	140	90	22	18	15	16	14		367	74
D/D	4	7	13	4	2	0	4	2		36	---

Total Barber Quarters reported by grade:

<u>AG</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>VG</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>VF</u>	<u>XF</u>	<u>AU</u>	<u>MS</u>	<u>PF</u>	<u>Total</u>
1609	4062	1971	1361	1424	914	740	569	61	12,711

---

## Some additional details and observations:

To nobody's surprise, the 1901-S leads the list with the fewest coins reported -- only 42 specimens noted in the census. The 1913-S came in second with 77, nearly twice as many. The 1896-S was a close third at 83 coins. The 1901-S also was the show-stopper with many people in completing their sets.

The most reported date in the survey was the 1916-D, with 367 pieces, again matching the consensus of being the most common in the series.

We also attempted to discern if any die pairings of the "Big 3" might be scarcer than the other, since each of the three was struck from only two die pairs.

The results from the coins specified by die pairings include:

- 1896-S: 29 coins (64%) reported from Die Pair 1, 16 coins (36%) from Die Pair 2 (the remaining 38 coins not specified)
- 1901-S: 9 coins (50%) reported from Die Pair A, 9 coins (50%) from Die Pair B.
- 1913-S: 21 coins (66%) reported from Die Pair 1, 11 coins (34%) from Die Pair 2. Die #2 was believed to be scarcer than Die #1, and this information supports that supposition.

Original and uncleaned AU 1909-O coins were believed to be almost as rare as the 1901-S, so we asked for this separately. Of the 10 reported AU 1909-O coins, 5 were reported to be original. Although very rare, it is probably not quite that rare. The 1901-S is still king.

Most people would bet that the average grade for the "Big 3" would be lower than that of the rest of the series, but as is evident from the data, the vast majority of the coins are in the AG-VG range, regardless of date. This is because many collectors have set aside a number of examples of common dates in low grades, in addition to their target set (if they are building one). Most complete sets had the Big 3 in low grades, even if the rest of the set was in mid to high circulated grades.

The 1892-S variety, with only six reported examples, appears to be fairly rare, or the victim of not being noticed or reported separately. The other mintmark varieties appeared in greater numbers, especially in lower grades.

Hoarding of certain dates was fairly common in the census. By far, the two dates most subject to hoarding were 1897-S and 1909-O. Two collectors had



---

more than 40 of these dates in AG-VG grades, and numerous others reported 5-10 examples. One collector reported five examples of 1909-O in XF-MS, with one original AU.

Other dates that were hoarded (in numbers more than 20) included 1911-D and 1911-S. Even the Big 3 were hoarded to some extent. One person reported four 1901-S in AG-XF, and another with three VG to MS. The champion hoarder of key dates reported 18 examples of 1896-S, plus 8 examples of 1913-S, and 14 of 1914-S – all in AG-VG grades.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Rarity Survey Results

To supplement the Census and help collectors set expectations on how easy or difficult some coins will be to find in certain grades, we also conducted a Rarity Survey, where collectors could offer their opinion of relative availability of the better date coins. Here they could express how difficult it was for them to find certain coins (or those they have been looking for without success). We did not poll for common dates. Rarity Rating definitions accompany the results.

The Rarity Survey got better results than I had hoped. Many collectors only expressed opinions on specific grade ranges that they have been actively looking for, and others only on the specific dates that they have an interest in.

There were many people who stated that the Rarity Ratings listed in *The Complete Guide to Barber Quarters, 2nd Edition*, by David Lawrence, were mostly still accurate, and only provided opinions for the coins they believed had changed since the book was written.

There were no great surprises, and there was a lot of consensus among Rarity Survey respondents. Some dates had minor shifts in ratings, often between R2 and R3, or R3 and R4, but nothing dramatic at all. All in all, this writer believes we got excellent results.

To publish the rarity ratings for the entire series in one place, we have added the ratings for the common dates (from earlier works) to the results of the current survey of better dates. The new updated data for better dates is in normal typeface, and the information on common dates from prior works is in italicized grey typeface:

## Barber Quarter Rarity Survey – 2006

Date	AG	G	VG	F	VF	XF	AU	MS
1892		R1	R1	R2	R2	R1	R1	R1
1892-O		R2	R2	R2	R2	R2	R2	R1
1892-S		R3	R3	R4	R4	R4	R4	R4
1893		R1	R2	R2	R3	R2	R2	R1
1893-O		R1	R2	R2	R3	R3	R3	R2
1893-S		R2	R3	R3	R4	R4	R4	R4
1894		R1	R2	R2	R2	R3	R3	R2
1894-O		R2	R3	R3	R3	R4	R4	R4
1894-S		R2	R2	R3	R3	R3	R3	R3
1895		R1	R1	R2	R2	R3	R3	R2
1895-O		R2	R2	R3	R3	R4	R4	R4
1895-S		R2	R3	R3	R3	R4	R4	R4
1896		R1	R1	R2	R2	R2	R2	R2
1896-O		R2	R2	R3	R4	R5	R5	R5
1896-S		R3	R4	R4	R5	R5	R5	R5
1897		R1	R1	R2	R2	R3	R3	R2
1897-O		R2	R3	R4	R4	R5	R5	R5
1897-S		R3	R3	R4	R5	R5	R5	R5
1898		R1	R1	R2	R2	R2	R2	R1
1898-O		R2	R3	R3	R4	R4	R4	R5
1898-S		R2	R2	R3	R3	R4	R4	R6
1899		R1	R1	R2	R2	R2	R2	R1
1899-O		R2	R2	R3	R3	R3	R4	R4
1899-S		R2	R3	R3	R3	R4	R4	R5
1900		R1	R1	R2	R2	R2	R2	R1
1900-O		R2	R3	R3	R4	R4	R4	R3
1900-S		R2	R2	R3	R3	R3	R3	R4
1901		R1	R1	R2	R2	R2	R2	R2
1901-O		R2	R3	R4	R4	R5	R5	R5
1901-S	R3	R4	R4	R5	R6	R6	R7	R6
1902		R1	R1	R2	R2	R2	R2	R1
1902-O		R2	R2	R3	R3	R4	R3	R4
1902-S		R2	R2	R3	R4	R4	R4	R4
1903		R1	R2	R3	R3	R3	R3	R3
1903-O		R2	R2	R3	R3	R3	R3	R4
1903-S		R2	R3	R3	R3	R4	R4	R3
1904		R1	R1	R2	R2	R2	R3	R2
1904-O		R2	R3	R3	R4	R4	R5	R4
1905		R1	R1	R2	R2	R2	R2	R2
1905-O		R2	R3	R4	R4	R4	R5	R5
1905-S		R2	R2	R3	R3	R3	R4	R4

1906	R1	R2	R2	R3	R3	R3	R1
1906-D	R1	R2	R3	R3	R3	R3	R3
1906-O	R2	R2	R3	R3	R4	R4	R3
1907	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1
1907-D	R2	R3	R3	R3	R4	R4	R4
1907-O	R2	R2	R3	R3	R3	R3	R3
1907-S	R2	R2	R3	R3	R4	R5	R4
1908	R1	R1	R2	R2	R3	R1	R1
1908-D	R1	R1	R2	R2	R2	R2	R2
1908-O	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1
1908-S	R3	R3	R4	R4	R5	R5	R5
1909	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1
1909-D	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1
1909-O	R3	R3	R4	R4	R5	R6	R5
1909-S	R2	R2	R3	R3	R4	R4	R4
1910	R1	R2	R2	R2	R3	R3	R2
1910-D	R2	R2	R3	R3	R4	R4	R4
1911	R1	R1	R2	R2	R2	R2	R1
1911-D	R2	R2	R4	R4	R5	R5	R4
1911-S	R2	R3	R3	R4	R4	R5	R3
1912	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1
1912-S	R2	R2	R3	R4	R4	R4	R4
1913	R2	R3	R3	R4	R4	R5	R4
1913-D	R2	R3	R3	R3	R3	R4	R2
1913-S	R4	R4	R5	R5	R7	R6	R4
1914	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1
1914-D	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1
1914-S	R2	R3	R4	R4	R5	R5	R4
1915	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1
1915-D	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1
1915-S	R1	R2	R3	R3	R3	R4	R3
1916	R1	R1	R2	R2	R2	R2	R1
1916-D	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1

**R1:** Common date and grade

**R2:** Better date and grade

**R3:** Tough date – available, but may require some looking

**R4:** Scarce – may or may not find at larger shows/auctions

**R5:** Very scarce – only a few offered for sale each year

**R6:** Almost never seen – only one or two may be offered for sale in a year's time

**R7:** Rare – a single specimen might, on average, be offered for sale once every few years.



---

There were some changes to some of the key dates since the last BCCS Rarity Survey and Dave's Complete Guide book. A number of the dates and grades that had previously been listed with high rarity ratings have fallen slightly. Remembering the definitions, any coin with a rarity rating above R5 is extremely difficult to find, and only a select few dates and grades are really worthy of that distinction.

In fact, only two of the entries from previous works have retained their R7 status in this new survey: the 1901-S in AU, and the 1913-S in XF. And the data seems to support these two entries. Not one respondent to the census reported a 1901-S in AU, the only date and grade combination not represented in the census. Amazing. As for the 1913-S, when Dave wrote the 2nd Edition of his book, there was only a single XF specimen certified by PCGS and NGC combined (March 1993). By the beginning of 2006, 13 years later, there were just two – only a single example had been added over the next 13 years! These facts would tend to validate both of the R7 designations.

AU rarity ratings for 1896-S, 1897-S, and 1909-O have all fallen from the very lofty R7 to R5 or R6. In the case of 1896-S, a hoard of about a dozen AU coins surfaced over 5 years ago – one rumor said the hoard was from Hawaii. These coins were quickly absorbed into the market and dispersed. Perhaps this accounted for the drop in the ratings for that one date (although only 4 AU coins were reported in this census). 1909-O in AU fell to a high R6. The coins reported in the census are probably off the market for a long time to come, and finding another AU will be formidable, which is why some still felt the coin deserved the R7 rating. Still, it fell just short of that designation.

The 1901-S has fallen in perceived rarity in low grades. One respondent noted, "There seemed to be a glut of AG-VG coins on the market this past year, probably because the huge price increases the past couple of years have brought so many pieces out of hiding." Another collector agreed: "There have probably been more low-grade 1901-S quarters available during the past 2 years than were available the prior 10 [years]. However Fine to AU coins are still almost never seen!" 1896-S in Good has fallen to R3, and the 1913-S nearly did as well. All likely due to price increases coaxing some long-time owners to sell their coins (or at least some of their lower-grade duplicates).

In mint state grades, respondents gave an R6 rating to only two coins – the 1901-S and the 1898-S. 1896-S fell from R6 into the high R5 range with this survey. Perhaps a few recent auction appearances for the 1896-S swayed the survey participants.

One comment from a collector about the 1898-S specifically (useful to

---

keep in mind when regarding the coin retaining its R6 status in Mint State): “The population reports are getting more and more misleading. In addition to resubmissions, many of the lower ‘MS’ slabbed 1898-S quarters are sliders and not true Uncs. The coin is much scarcer in Unc. than the population reports would indicate.” This writer agrees with his point. After years of looking at numerous 1898-S MS61-63 slabs from all services that contained sliders (and some cleaned AU coins), I finally bought an MS62 raw at an auction, and had to pay a very generous price to get it.

## Summary

This Census and Rarity Survey was intended to provide collectors of Barber Quarters additional and updated information that will help them understand the relative availability and scarcity of the different issues in all of the major grade ranges. Due to the impressive participation, along with the quality of the responses, I think we did that.

Please use the results in any manner that will be useful for your purposes, and we hope that the results will prove to be valuable information for you.

We look forward to conducting a Census and Rarity Survey for each of the remaining Barber series over the next couple of years. I will admit that this project was a lot more work than I originally anticipated, but this was mainly due to the volume of the responses. We have learned a number of things during this project that will make the future surveys a little less complicated.

Thanks to everyone who participated in this project.



## BCCS President's Message (continued from page 4)

Hope you consider ANA in your future (next summer is Milwaukee!) based on the highlights I recorded above (WOW!). Hope also your collecting pursuits are rewarding.

Numismatic regards,  
*Phil Carrigan*

# BUYING BARBERS

F - AU

DIMES  
QUARTERS  
HALVES

KEVIN LONERGAN  
BOX 4234  
HAMDEN, CT 06514

EMAIL: [elinore@snet.net](mailto:elinore@snet.net)



---

## “15 Most Wanted” List: Unexpected Capture

By **Steve Merrill**

For several years I have created at the beginning of each year a list of the 15 coins that I would most like to add to my collection. Actually finding and purchasing these little gems has been an effort with mixed success from year to year.

One coin, the 1898-S Barber Quarter, has been an especially elusive target. It has been on my list for three years without me ever seeing one advertised, let alone actually seeing a coin. This spring I was the under-bidder for an MS-64 example. I have been kicking myself ever since for “the one that got away.”

A month ago, I was tempted to purchase an uncertified, circulated example. However, the impulse was resisted, in that I know me well enough to realize this would be but a “temporary fix,” and I would be back on the hunt.

This week I was looking at some auction lots and, before turning off the computer, took a quick peek at a favorite dealer’s site. I did a double-take for there it was - an 1898-S Barber Quarter, MS-65 PCGS. It was funny, for I instinctively took a suspicious look over my shoulder to see if anyone else had spotted the “prize.” You’re alone in the room, STUPID!

Today my prize arrived. There is a great satisfaction in filling the “hole” with the right coin; however, I also feel a degree of sadness that the battle with such an elusive adversary has come to a close.

Wait a minute. I’d almost forgotten. There are fourteen worthy targets still on the list. Back to the hunt.



---

## BARBER BITS (continued from page 9)

*Here are several more 2004 End-of Year Member Survey responses to the question "What are your three favorite Barbers?"*

Herb Ulrich -

My three favorite coins are

1897-S quarter in Good

1897-S quarter in Very Good

1897-S quarter in Fine

Why? The challenge of finding them! They are just tough to find in "original" condition - w/o dings, scratches, cleaned, etc.

Cornel Christian: I only have Barber quarters. I am an average collector. No way could I put together a BU set. At first I tried to do a VF set, but I had a great deal of grade problems with dealers so I went for EF as much as possible. That way I was able to get most of what I wanted even though some were still over-graded. I completed my set about 5 years ago and am still upgrading. My favorites are:

1. 1901-S ANACS G-6 I knew I couldn't buy a high grade so when I found one with full letters on the reverse, I got it.

2. 1903-S EF-40 Took me a long time to find this coin. Mint states are around but try to find a nice EF-AU.

3. 1909-O VF-30 Still looking to upgrade.

P.S. My 1901-S is Type A. I can see no die cracks.

Todd Garrett -

1901-S 25c - low mintage, tough date.

1913-S 25c - low mintage, tough date.

1896-S 25c - low mintage, tough date.

Bob Salth -

1. 1904-S Barber Half - Condition F-12. I purchased this coin at the recent Baltimore show in Dec. 04. The coin has excellent eye appeal and has never been cleaned. I paid \$170 for this coin which is seldom available in this condition and problem-free.

2. 1895-O Barber Dime in Good. This is one of the few coins I purchased in my youth. I purchased the coin for \$45 around 1961 at the Bayshore Farmer Market in New York.

3. 1896-S Barber Quarter VG condition. Purchased while in the army in San Antonio, Texas in 1968. Cost was about \$90.

3. Tied for 3rd!! 1909-O Quarter in Fine. This coin is difficult to obtain above VG. I stumbled on this coin at a local coin dealer in Pitman, NJ for \$70.

# **“QUALITY BARBERS FROM JACK BEYMER”**



*Call or write us today for  
the coins you need.*

**Jack H. Beymer**

Phone: 707-544-1621

737 West Coddington Center

Santa Rosa, CA 95401

Store Hours: 10 AM to 6 PM Mon-Sat



## **WE BUY AND SELL BARBER HALVES • QUARTERS • DIMES**

One of America's leading coin dealers offering a sizable assortment of hard-to-find Halves, Quarters, and Dimes to Barber collectors seeking quality materials. Send us your want list. We are always in the market to buy whatever coins you have to sell. Write or phone Dennis Steinmetz with your description.

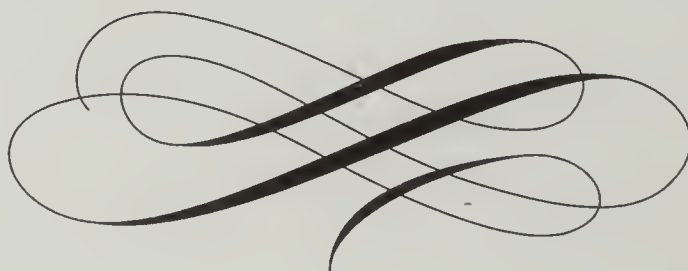
**Steinmetz Coins & Currency, Inc.**

**350 Centerville Rd., Lancaster, PA 17601**

**717-299-1211**

**800-334-3903**

**Member: NGC • PCGS • ANA • PNG**



## **BCCS ADVERTISEMENT RATES**

1/8 page	1 issue.....\$12	4 issues.....\$40
1/4 page	1 issue.....\$20	4 issues.....\$70
1/2 page	1 issue.....\$30	4 issues.....\$100
1 page	1 issue.....\$70	4 issues.....\$250
1 page inside front - rear cover	1 issue..\$80	4 issues.....\$300
1 page outside rear cover	1 issue...\$125	4 issues.....\$400